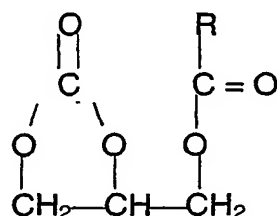


CLAIMS

1. The use as a fuel or solvent of a mixture comprising one or more alkyl esters of fatty acids having formula (I):



and one or more esters of fatty acids of glycerol carbonate having formula (II):



wherein:

- R represents a mono- or polyunsaturated, linear, branched or cyclic alkyl or alkenyl radical, containing from 4 to 24 carbon atoms;
 - R' represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl radical containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.
2. The use according to claim 1, wherein in the esters having formula (I) and (II):
- R represents a mono- or polyunsaturated, linear, branched or cyclic alkyl or alkenyl radical, containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms;
 - R' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the esters of fatty acids of glycerol carbonate are present in the mixture in a weight percentage ranging from 10 to 40%.

5 4. The use according to any of the previous claims, as fuel for diesel cycle engines.

5. Fuel compositions comprising the mixture of esters as defined in claims 1 to 3, added to mineral gasoil.

10 6. Fuel compositions comprising the mixture of esters as defined in claims 1 to 3, and at least one additive for fuels.

7. The use according to claims 1, 2 or 3 as a conventional industrial solvent.

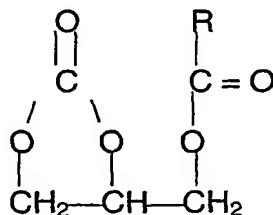
15 8. Solvent compositions comprising the mixture of esters as defined in claims 1, 2 or 3, formulated together with water and surfactants.

9. A process for the preparation of a mixture comprising one or more alkyl esters of fatty acids having formula (I):

20 RCOOR'

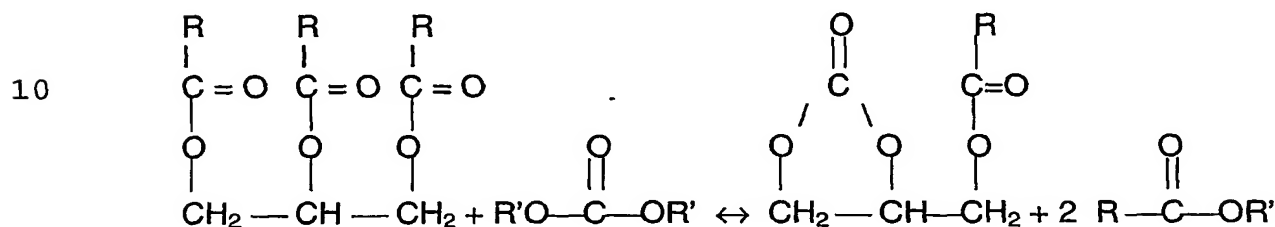
and one or more esters of fatty acids of glycerol carbonate having formula (II):

25



wherein:

- R, the same or different, and R', also the same or different, have the meanings illustrated above, comprising the reaction in the absence of water of one or more esters of fatty acids of glycerol, with one or more alkyl carbonates, in the presence of a base catalyst, according to the following reaction scheme:



and the purification of the mixture obtained by means of neutralization, removal of the catalyst, washing with water or aqueous acids and, finally, extraction with an organic solvent.

10. The process according to claim 9, wherein, before the addition of the catalyst, the water is extracted from the reagents by means of azeotropic distillation with an organic azeotrope-forming solvent.

11. The process according to claim 10, wherein, when the alkyl carbonate to be reacted is dimethyl carbonate or diethyl carbonate, the azeotrope-forming solvent consists of the same dialkyl carbonates.